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A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
OF THE MAINLINE LEVEE REPAIR,
DYER COUNTY, TENNESSEE
LEVEE MAINTENANCE PROJECT - A NEGATIVE
FINDING REPORT.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Memphis District

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Archeologist

October 1988

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ABSTRACT

On 21 September 1988, an intensive Cultural Resources Survey was conducted by the Environmental Analysis Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District along a portion of the Mainline Levee in Dyer County, Tennessee. A literature search and a pedestrian survey failed to locate any archaeological, historical or architectural sites within the proposed project area. Thus, it is concluded that the proposed work will not have any impact on cultural resources.

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INTRODUCTION

An intensive cultural resource survey was conducted on 21 September 1988. The length and width of the proposed borrow area was walked over and shovel test units dug where required. The literature search indicated no sites in the proposed area.

STUDY AREA AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Memphis District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is proposing to conduct emergency repairs at two locations in Dyer County, Tennessee. Both repairs are along the portion of mainline levee adjacent to the Obion River (Map 1). Slide No. 1 is 1,500 feet long and 260 feet wide. Slide No. 2 is 1,000 feet long and 260 feet wide. Slide No. 1 is 9 acres in area and Slide No. 2 is 6 acres, the entire project is a total of 15 acres.

The Corps proposes to rebuild the levee failures further back from the river edge. Each section will be tied-in to the existing levee (Map 2). Materials for building the new levee sections will be taken from the existing older levee. No other borrow areas will be required.

ENVIROMENTAL SETTING

The project area is located in the eastern lower Mississippi alluvial valley (Fisk 1944). The eastern lowland is the active flood plain of the Missis-

issippi River and is characterized by alternating ridges and depressions of little relief. The ridges are the natural levees and the lowlands are abandoned channels formed by the continuous meandering river and its tributaries.

The project right-of-way is under cultivation. However, the levee area was covered with trees and bushes, here could be found green ash (Fratiaus peneslyvanica var subintegeriana), red maple (Acer rubrum), and American elm (Ulmus americana). Common private (Ligustrum amurense), rue anemone (Anemone thalictorides), Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica), panic grass (Panicum sp.) and aster (Aster sp.).

Various species of fauna were observed. Avifauna observed in the area include Carolina chickadee (Parus carolinensis), Americana crow (Corvas brachyrhynchus), common flicker (Calaptes auratus), downy woodpecker (Picoides pubescens), American robin (Turdus migratorius), blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata), northern junco (Junco lyemalis), and horned lark (Eremophila alpestris).

Mammal signs observed in the area included raccoon (Procyon lotor), white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus), eastern cottontail (Sylvilagus florida), fox squirrel (Sciurus niger), gray squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis), and Virginia opossum (Didelphis virginiana).

RESULTS OF THE RECORDS SEARCH

Tennessee State Site Records and the National Register of Historic Places were consulted. No prehistoric or historic cultural remains were recorded within the proposed project area.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

The entire right-of-way was under cultivation. Even though crops were in the fields the visibility was 40-60% overall. From the landward edge of the existing levee two transects, 30 meters apart, were walked along the length of the right-of-way. No, non-modern cultural materials or indicators were found.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on an infield cultural resources survey and a background literature search, no evidence of prehistoric, historic, or architectural resources exists within the direct impact zone of the proposed project area. However, on the surface was found recent glass and plastic. If is, therefore, concluded that the proposed project will not have any impact on cultural resources.

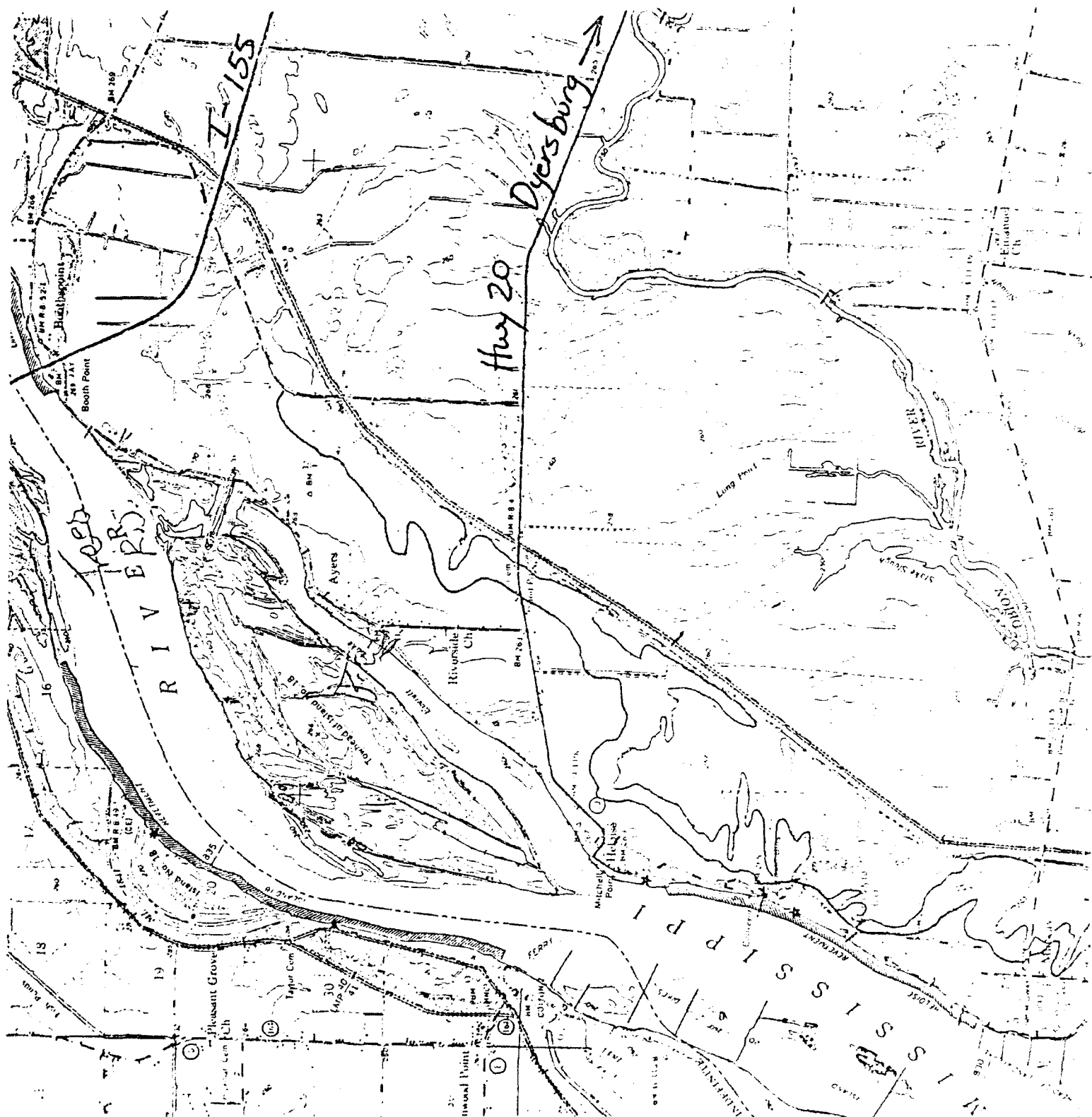
The survey methodology used does not eliminate the possibility of encountering deeply buried sites. Therefore, it is recommended that any site encoun-

tered during construction be protected from further damage until its significant can be determined by the Environmental Analysis Branch, Memphis District, Corps of Engineers in conjunction with the Tennessee Historical Commission.

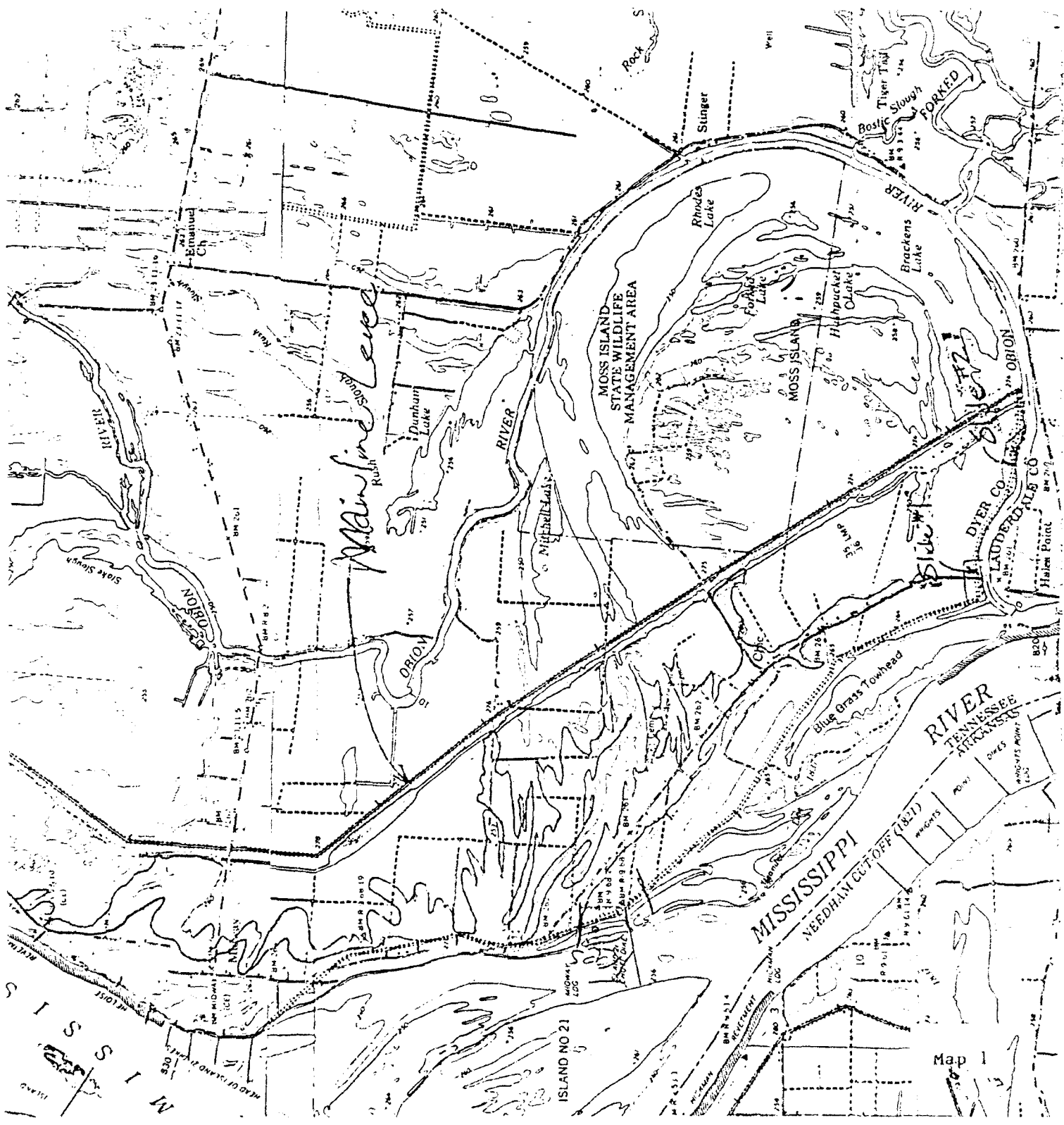
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Fisk, Harold N.

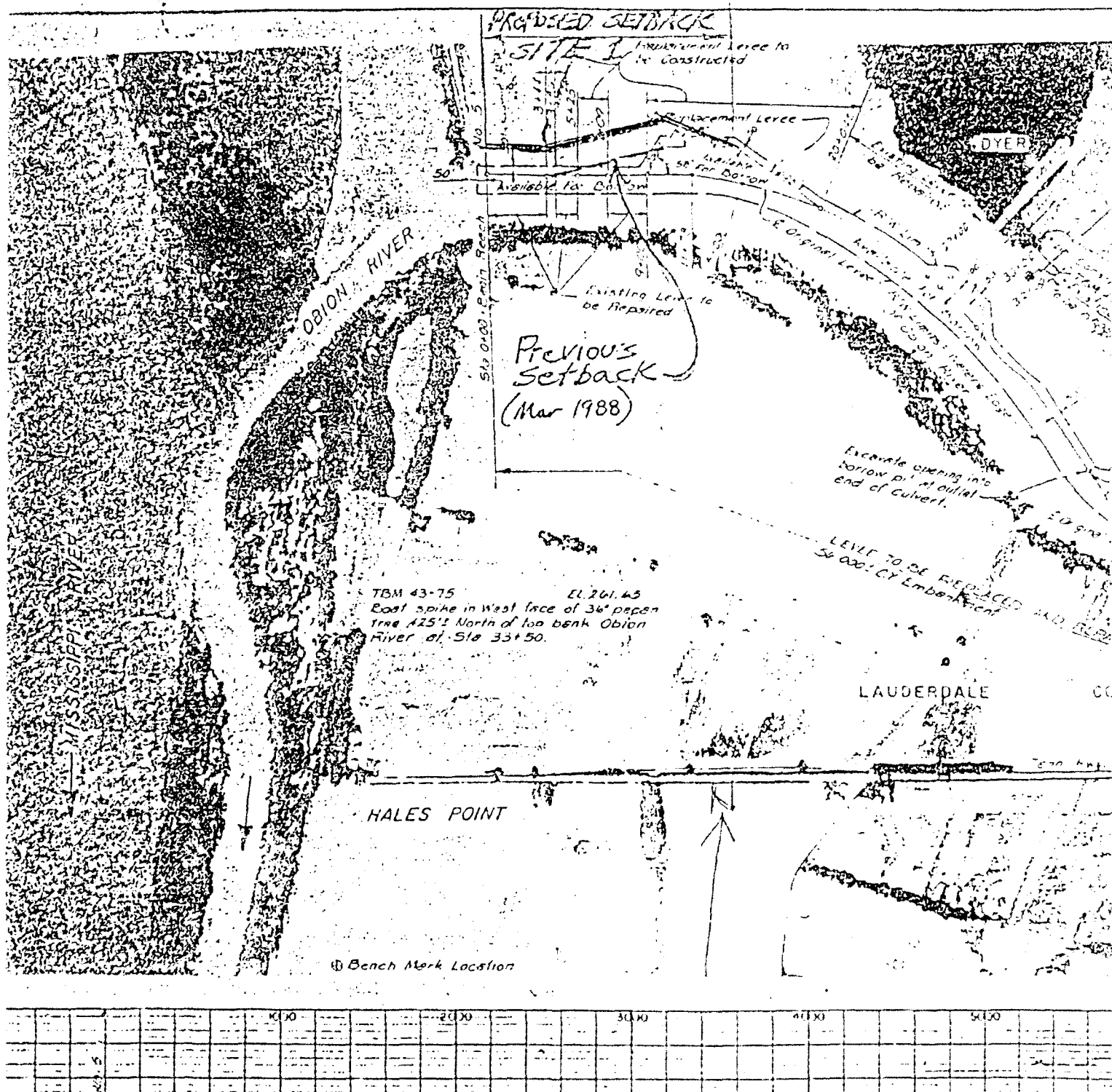
1944 Geological Investigations of the Alluvial Valley of the
Lower Mississippi River. War Depart, U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers, Mississippi River Commission, Vicksburg, Missis-
sippi



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Map 1



SE COUNTY

Proposed Subbank
SITE 2

Obion River

Existing Levee to be Repaired

New Limits: Water Edge of Obion River

RW Limits

Available for Barron

Culvert

Road

To Halls

May 08

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